Serving The People Of The Hunters Point-Bayview

THE SPOKESMAN

VOL. 1, NO. 10 Thursday January 20, 1966

AREA BOARD SUPPORTS POVERTY CHIEF

Last Thursday night, the Hunters Point Area Planning Board of the San Francisco Poverty Program held a closed session meeting to investigate a controversy arising out of the presence of three of its members at a private meeting with Mayor Shelley which in part dealt with a move to fire Mr. Everett Brandon as Director of the Program in the City. The result of the Area Board's lengthy questionning of participants was a statement which, among other things supported Brandon and made it clear that those who met with the Mayor were in no sense authorized to do so by either the Board or the rest of the Hunters Point Community.

The Controversy arose at the last regular meeting of the Area Board when irate citizens and Board members protested the participation of Board members in the Mayor's meeting. At that time a short but lively discussion was held and Mr. John Dukes Area Board Chairman promised that the Board would take action on it. Acting on that pledge, Mr. Dukes called the Board together for Thursday night's investigation of the facts.

The text of the statement put out by the Area Board is as follows:

"On Monday, January 10, three members of the Hunters Point Area Planning Board were involved in a meeting with Mayor Shelley. Since there has been some controversy over this meeting, the Hunters Point Board has made an investigation and is able to say these

Cont'd on Page 2.

MRS. JULIA COMMER EXPRESSES NEEDED IDEAS



Mrs. Julia Commer does not present an outward picture of a tiger, she really appears to be typical of countless other women found in any low-income area. She arrived in San Francisco in 1943 with her mother and uncle. She resides at Hunters Point with her husband, David, and five children, David Jr., 17; Mack Ray, 14; Ursula Marie, 11; Antoinette, 7; and little Charles Eugene, 2. She has resided in California twenty-two years, and has been married for eighteen years, most of those spent in Hunters Point, an area they have grown to love. Mention one word downgrading the Point or those who live there and Mrs. Julia Commer changes like a cornered tiger, her eyes begin to flash, aches, pains and worries are pushed aside, she seems to become a giant and woe to those that have dared defame the Point and its residents.

She is well known to all who live there, for her tireless, unselfish efforts on behalf of others, primarily the youth of the area. She has dedicated her life to the youth. Mrs. Commer feels that the adults should strive to raise the youth by showing them that they are a friend. She has gained the respect of many youth in the community by giving them respect as individuals, she has always been known by her deeds for the youth as a true friend to them.

She stated that if the home, the church, and community would work together and try to help solve the problems of the youth we could make progress. If we continue to downgrade and criticize the youth by telling them "they are not going to be anybody," this is exactly what will happen.

An incident that is typical of her devotion was the recent occurance of a fight between youth, where Mrs. Commer at the risk of her life and injury, tried to restore peace without bringing in the police. Mrs. Commer's primary interest was to prevent the further establishment of long police records. In her effort she suffered great injury in an attempt to conquer what most men in this community have made no attempt to do. In acknowledgement of her devotion, and in apology the boys involved have sent lovely flowers. But Mrs. Commer wants the boys to recognize that she looks at the individual flowers as showing the love that each boy has for her. And she realizes that they wouldn't have hurt her intentionally, but they were blinded by their disagreements with their peers.

It is Mrs. Commer's wish that the churches, homes, and schools should work together to help the youth, and without unity the problem of the youth can not be solved.

She is deeply involved in all aspects of community life from Providence Baptist Church at Mendell and McKinnon to her duties with the staff of the Anti-Poverty Office at Third and Palou.

She is a Board member of Bayter, member of its founding club, the Bayview Crispus Attucks Club, Advisory Board of Youth Opportunity Center, member of Governor's Conference on Youth, President of Burnett School PTA, member of the Police Community Relations Hunters Point Committee, member of the NAACP Housing Committee, one of the original founders of the San Francisco Neighborhood Co-Op movement, Advisory Council of Bay Area

Cont'd on Page 2

The Inseparable Pair

John 5: 19. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise."

Daily I am confronted with the totally dedicated persons who all have the solutions to the problems of Hunters Point or other blight stricken Negro ghettos. One will say that education is the solution to the problem. Another will argue to the last that there must be moderate low - income housing. Still another will insist that the Anti-Poverty Program, with all of its unity and strength, will make "everything all right." There are those who feel that "if only Alinski would come." And on and on these solutions come.

Honest to God, I wish I had the solution to the problem. I wish also I could believe that through some great power a change will come for the present generation of Negro fathers. As a result of nearly 250 years of total destruction of the Negro male image in America, these fathers have been 'castrated.' It is a crime of the worst kind committed against the Blacks in America. And instead of disappearing, it spread -- the Negroes are now forced into ghettos where mother becomes the dominant figure.

If we ever are to build a strong community and our Negro children are to take their rightful place in American society, something must be done today to build a strong and stable family structure. Too many of our male (as well as female) children grow up without a father figure to emulate. The mother (and often the grandmother) is the head of the household. Our boys entering school are again confronted with a female as head of the schools as well as grade school teachers. Even the social worker who calls in the home is a female. (Incidentally, in our area few, or none, are of the same racial background as the male child, which would help him identify). When words are spoken about the man who fathered him, they are usually negative, and he is usually considered to be wasteful, lazy, shiftless, and a deserter.

We must, when the opportunity avails itself, train, if necessary, our own males in the community and place them in responsible positions within the community -- not one seldom, if ever, seen by our children, but one who spends time with them.

The son who has no father image to emulate has strikes against him from the beginning. The only two male persons who he is likely to encounter with strong bearings on his life, are the minister with all his righteousness, and the police with his force and responsibilities, which doesn't help the situation at all.

I would be the last to say that a father must be in every home or that many mothers don't do much better alone with the boys than would be possible if there was "a man around the house." But I do say that "the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do." Perhaps not his paternal father but a strong male, through whom he can see an adequate image which should motivate him and give him someone to emulate.

No, this is not the solution to the problem either, but I do hope that we will add it to our list of solutions such as the Poverty Program, housing, consumer education, community organization and others.

Butchertown



Nolan (Cool Breeze) Davis celebrated his 21st Birthday last Monday night. Wine, roses, African food and pretty girls helped make this Birthday party a real swinging affair for Mr. Cool Breeze. Left to right -- the very popular Joe Pratt, Mr. Cool Breeze, Butchertown's popular hostess Dorthea Bell, Butchertown's girl Friday Marie Sterling, Miss Jeraldine Hendly; Ronnie Robinson and Miss Lillian Island are a few of the wonderful people who joined the festivities. Sam Jordan wants to again remind you of our daily Happy Hour Party, beer and shots for 50¢, Blue Monday Night Party and Tuesday night is Ladies Night, drinks are 35¢ per shot.

JULIA COMMER

Cont'd

Neighboring Development an anti-poverty experimental project in consumer education, organizer of the Parents Action Group fighting for a new Bayview Elementary School, Delegate to the National Conference on Poverty in the Southwest, one of the institutions of Citizens United Against Poverty which is one majority representation for the poor here in San Francisco, member of Progressive Parents Association, affiliated with Order of Eastern Star and Heroines of Jericho of Houston, Texas. She also was formerly area staff assistance to Congressman Phillip Burton and Assemblyman John Burton.

Yes, Mrs. Commer is very active because she wants a better community life for her family and neighbors. She entered this through heritage since her mother, the late Media Hudson one of the charter members of Crispus Attucks Club which founded the Bayview Neighborhood Community. The new annex at 4701 Third Street stands as a tribute to her memory.

David Commer, a quiet unassuming ex-Navy man and an employee of the U.S. Post Office is also very much in the picture since he cooperates all the way in making sure that one of them can be active in helping to bring about a decent neighborhood.

We must salute the courage and determination of this gallant woman, indeed her whole family for they as a unit have backed her endeavors to the hilt. She is one of the many reasons it's such an honor and pleasure to live and work in the Hunters Point - Bayview community.

A Gallant Act

In recognition of recent gallantry on the part of a few unknown citizens a letter was sent to this newspaper by an appreciative citizen. The letter states as follows: Tuesday night, January 4th, a girl screamed outside of our window. We live in Section C. Someone was attacking her. Four men from the neighboring building went to her rescue. One of the men followed her to her home to assure her safety. Another man chased the assailant. The third man dashed from house to help. And the first man seared off the would-be-attacker, who ran.

How very thankful I was (and I'm a young housewife with children living in Hunters Point) that four men rushed to the aid of this young girl — and a situation like New York City, where a woman was being attacked, and 38 people drew their shades, closed their window and refused to endanger their own lives, did not occur up here in Hunters Point. Thank God, for our brave, interested and courageous neighbors.

Signed
Resident

POV

Cont'd

things:

1. That Newspaper accounts of the meeting contained important errors.

2. That we have no evidence of previous collusion on the part of those Hunters Point people who attended the meeting.

3. That those who met with the Mayor were doing so as individuals and as representatives of neither this board nor the residents of the Hunters Point Area.

4. That the Hunters Point Area Planning Board has no reason to be opposed to Mr. Everett Brandon continuing as the Director of the Poverty Program in San Francisco and as of this time gives him its full support."

Editorial

HOUSING SCENE-HUNTERS POINT

The following article is a reprint of a KPIX Television Editorial by the stations general manager Louis S. Simon. It was telecast Sunday and Monday January 2, 1965 and January 3rd, 1965. Everyone is concerned about what kind of housing will replace the temporary housing which by law must come down by 1970. We have only four short years in which to work. This will require a total community effort, not just the people who will be losing their homes, but those who live in the area surrounding Hunters Point Hill. Businesses, churches, schools, etc., all will feel the effect of the demolishing of our temporary war housing; we cannot afford to sit idley by and do nothing.

Bayview-Hunters Point Community Development Corporation has been designated by the area board as our agent to deal with this problem. We all owe it to ourselves, our families, our neighborhood to be an active member and participate in determining our future housing development. You can get a membership for one dollar, a very sound, practical investment by going by the Bayview Neighborhood Community Center 4701 Third Street, AT 5-3307. We need you -- Therefore this editorial is reprinted in the interest of our community and its housing crisis.

NEW CONCEPT FOR HUNTERS POINT!

For too long San Francisco has talked about the urgent need to eliminate the ghetto housing in Hunters Point - and done NOTHING except to designate it a redevelopment area.

More recently Washington has used passage of State Proposition 14 that nullified California's Fair Housing Law to halt allocation of Federal money to redevelop Hunters Point.

But despite this roadblock, the two public agencies most concerned now are making every effort to proceed with rejuvenation of Hunters Point. These are the San Francisco Housing Authority and the Redevelopment Agency.

Forget any nonsense you hear about these two agencies being at odds on this problem. And you may be sure both of them want to involve the people who live in Hunters Point, and the minority group organizations that represent most of them, in any plans for the rejuvenation of that area.

The Housing Authority and Redevelopment Agency have the same objective - to provide the 10,000 residents of Hunters Point with decent housing they can afford and as soon as practical.

There are two ways to do this. One is the old way of replacing the temporary wartime barracks with a new block of public housing.

The other is to replace the present housing with a totally new residential community, including an urgently needed shopping center, playgrounds and parks, churches and landscaping. This will take a little longer. But it would NOT identify the poor by the location of their housing, which would be the case if the present delapidated structures were replaced with new blocks of public housing.

The State Legislature set 1970 as the deadline for demolition of the wartime housing. Mr. Eneas Kane, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, wants to insure that decent housing they can afford is available BEFORE any tenants are forced to move out of the present Hunters Point structures.

Currently, Mr. Kane is gathering facts from all available sources - and proposals of all the minority group organizations concerned - for guidance of the Housing Authority commissioners in any decision they reach on the Hunters Point problem.

Meanwhile, we have reason to believe that certain legislation to be introduced in Congress this month by Senator Thomas Kuchel and Congressman Phillip Burton has a good chance of passage. Its passage would loosen the Federal purse strings sufficiently to enable the Redevelopment Agency to proceed with replacing the Hunters Point ghetto housing with a totally new community.

KPIX feels this type of a totally new community in which they could afford to live would provide a much better life for all the people in Hunters Point. In fact, we believe it is the ONLY way to bring them into the MAINSTREAM of the total San Francisco community.

"We have your favorite brand by the case"

G & E LIQUORS

George Giusto
Ed Avanzino

Complete Stock of Fine Imported and Domestic Wines and Liquors

710 Innes Ave.
VA 4-5618

Bayview Mortuary
5187 Third St.
Ellis Finley

BOB'S H&K LIQUOR
1300 Fitzgerald
826-3225

Harris Records & Variety Shop
986 GILMAN
San Francisco
822 6209

THE SPOKESMAN 826-8890
1449 Mendell St. San Francisco, Calif.

Editor: Robert Simms

Editorial Staff:
Rev. Bruce Kennedy
George Napper
Harold Brooks
John Dukes
Ben Carmichael
Dr. Arthur Coleman

Advertising Staff:
Marcelee Cashmere
George Williams
Gene Mabere
Essie Webb
Ethelene Wilson

Bayview An Organized Comm.

In the past few years the local scene has witnessed most vividly the awesome impact of an informed and organized citizenry. Functioning within the structures of established organizations, and other times creating new ones. Committed people of the Bay Area have been effective in permeating and shaking the very foundation of the established order.

Within the Hunters Point - Bayview District, there exists a host of power based organizations that use their respective and combined memberships as levers of influence "to get something done." As a direct result of these power organizations, this district is no longer referred to as "an unorganized section of San Francisco."

The loud voice created by the pervasive area groups indicated to all that this community demands to have a large so in policies and actions affecting them. No longer are exploitative and unproductive programs dumped into the area as passifiers for an uninformed citizenry. There are many citizens, both individual and acting within organizations, that are systematically and effectively counteracting the incapacitating clutches of and unfair status quo. They demand and they get results.

Three groups exerting much influence are the Inter-Block Council and its nine block network, the Area Planning Board for the Poverty Program and the Bayview - Hunters Point Community Development Corporation. A brief description of the area role and function of each organization follows: The Inter - Block Council (IBC) is the coordinating body for nine autonomous block groups located throughout the Hunters Point Area. It is a nonsectarian, nonpartisan organization that functions "as an agency to meet the demands and fulfill the wishes of the block group (s) and the community at large." Delegates from each block comprise the officers and voting membership for this council. Meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of each month.

In addition, the nine block groups hold regular meetings. During these meetings immediate and long range area concerns are discussed and, when necessary, acted upon. When resulting outcomes are not amendable to the influence of the individual block then the comprehensive Inter - Block Council mobilizes affirmitive measures to redress the particular concern.

The Area Planning Board (APB) is the local policy making body for the Bayview Hunters Point Poverty Program. Consisting of citizens from the area, the Area Planning Board provides the timely platform for effected people to say something about their own future and the destiny of the community in which they live.

Any "poverty funded" programs earmarked for this area must necessarily, first of all, get the endorsement and approval of the Area Planning Board, With this screening board, the area can be sure that no imposition of programs will meaning or not, will be thrusted upon the community.

The goal of the Community Development Corporation is to facilitate and integrated community, socially, ethnically and economically, by bringing the people as well as governmental and private resources to bear upon existing community situations. Membership in this organization is gained through a $1.00 Membership Fee and a sincere interest in the welfare and future of the area.

Central in the concerns of the corporation is the projected redevelopment of Hunters Point set for 1970. The group not only will have a say so in what type redevelopment will occur in terms of rental construction, but also is addressing itself to the relocation problem of citizens inevitably displaced by large scale redevelopment.

Non-discrimination Clause In City Contracts

A non-discrimination clause will be part of every contract between the city and its contractors and suppliers if an Ordinance suggested by the Human Rights Commission is approved by the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. LeRoy Cannon of the City Attorney's office stressed at the meeting that all contracts let by the city would be covered by the clause, including those with concessionaires operating under franchise with the city. The clause provides that contractors, subcontractors and suppliers agree not to discriminate in all aspects of hiring, upgrading, advertising, layoff or termination, pay and training.

The proposed Ordinance establishes the San Francisco Human Rights Commission as responsible for compliance of the clause and calls on the Fair Employment Practices Commission to investigate suspected violators.

Rev. Hamilton Boswell of the Conference on Religion and Race, Rev. Al Dale of the Temple Methodist Church, and Dr. Thomas N. Burbridge of NAACP pledged their organizations' support to the Commission's request to city government to pass this ordinance.

Voting to play a more active role in encouraging community discussion about racial imbalance in the schools, the Commissioners agreed with Rabbi Alvin Fine when he said, "What's going on is one of the most significant and potentially explosive issues in civil rights in San Francisco, and I think it's our responsibility to be involved. . . We can no longer stand on the sidelines and say we're ready to be called in if you want us; I think we belong in this situation and should so state."

Echoing Commissioner Fine's remarks, Commissioner William Porter added that he felt other city commissions should join in the dialogue between the Board and citizen's groups which should continue until satisfactory solutions are found.

Said Commissioner Porter: "I don't think you can divorce the school problem from the problem of planning or urban revewal or freeways or any other thing; these things all inter-relate and San Francisco should be thinking about bringing to bear on the problems all of the the city powers and all of the city strength that it can."

A letter will be sent to the School Board from the Commission suggesting, as proposed by Commissioner Porter, "that dialogue again be established between the Board and the community as soon as possible and stressing our great concern about the tensions on this question in the city."

In a quick reaction to the McCone report on the Watts riot, the Commission voted to write its own report for San Francisco. It plans to look at the conditions stated in that report as contributing to the explosion, evaluate which of them exist in San Francisco and to what degree. Much of the material is already on hand as a result of information gathered at a series of meetings held by the Commission in nine neighborhoods of the city earlier this year. Earl Raab of the Research Committee was also authorized to initiate a survey seeking facts parallelling census data since so much change has occurred since the last census of 1960 and another is not due until 1970. This study would also include questions about attitudes.

Essay: Economic Revolution

America is a land of vast natural resources. Bounded east and west by bountiful seas, traversed by great rivers, containing great forests and fertile plains within its continental borders, it has become, truly, the breadbox of the western hemisphere.

With the invention of the steam engine, which heralded the advent of the Industrial Revolution, America became the greatest producing nation the world has ever seen. As the railroads pushed into the furtherest extremes of this great land, it became possible for the farmers and manufacturers to receive goods and ship their products speedily and in volume to the growing ports on the Atlantic and Pacific seaboards. It became possible for the various differing agricultural zones to over-produce without substantially reducing the price of their product for by that time they were growing for the world, not just for regional consumption. The great mining corporations found a speedy outlet for their, seemingly, never ending supply of metals. Within a hundred years, America had become the greatest industrial and agricultural complex in the world. If America has its own particular genius, it is its capacity for invention born of necessity. As rapidly as the need for new machines, new methods of production and new modes of transportation arose they were met by new inventions. And, as rapidly as new inventions came into use the merchants found new ways of pushing their products into the furtherest markets of the world. As the labor force of America qued up in mass production lines merchants devised new methods of mass selling. Eventually, as the ever increasing supply outstripped the demand for products a new business came into being. Throughout the country and along the coasts, great warehouses, the stockpile of industrial and agricultural riches, were erected. Besides being the greatest producer of goods, America rapidly became the greatest storer of goods.

In time, the other nations of the world began to catch up in the various fields of production. They learned that only through specilization would they be able to maintain a favorable balance of trade. Now, for every American ship that departed with goods for foreign ports, there was another inward bound laden ship with foreign goods. Anxiously the merchants sought methods of increasing internal consumption of goods. In time, through the mediums of advertising, attractive packaging and quality stressed that they were able to create great internal markets for their goods. As national prosperity increased, the American consumer became more and more the greatest single buying market for America, and foreign products. The merchants of the world have been successful in creating a buyers reflex that is in equal parts, reflex buying, quality buying and status buying. Today the average American shopper buys, not out of need but out of a motivation derived from the vast advertising medias. Today, the cry "Caveat Emptor" (Let the buyer beware) has more meaning than at any other time in American history.

In spite of American prosperity we are not all rich. In a time when we are all enjoined to spend, spend, spend on every product which appears on the market it behooves us all to engage in some serious consideration concerning the vast choices of consumer items available to us. It behooves us to look behind the advertisers blandishments and to take a long, cold look at his product in terms of its quality and necessity.

First, let us consider quality. Is it reasonable to assume that the length of color of a bean necessarily determines its quality? Should not our first concern be with its food value? Should the fact that a new soap is attractively packaged and blanketed with praises from its manufacturer be the only fact determining quality? Would it not be better to consider whether or not it actually does a better job than the old soap? What assurance can one have that this product may not, over a period of time, prove less effective than another brand? Who's word shall we take? Can we reasonably assume that the manufacturer has only our good in mind? I doubt it.

As for the necessity of a great many items, one has only to consider whether or not this or that particular item fills a VITAL need in your everyday life.

However, the average buyer does not stop to make these considerations. He follows in sheeplike obedience, the advertisers dictates. Nor is he likely to change his habits unless he can be educated out of his reflex buying habits. It remains then, for some organization to undertake this job of educating the consumer and it is to this task that BAND has addressed itself.

Charles Smith

GOLDEN EAGLE LIQUOR
SEE DEL FREE DELIVERY
YOU GET THE BEST PLUS...
COURTEOUS SERVICE
VA 4-9400 5122 THIRD ST. SF

Archie's 647 2223
HICKORY PIT
ALL TYPES OF BARBECUE
ORDERS TO GO! DELIVERY SERVICE
5130 THIRD ST.
SAN FRANCISCO 24

WE MAKE YOU LOOK YOUR BEST
MISSION 7-0217
JACK'S QUALITY CLEANERS
4618 THIRD ST. SAN FRANCISCO

BEST WISHES
SAN FRANCISCO MEDICAL ASSOCIATES. INC.
6301 THIRD STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, 24, CALIFORNIA

THE TIME IS HERE!

WHAT •• TO CUT THE COST OF LIVING

WHERE ••• 994 GILMAN AVENUE

WHEN ••••• FEB. 24, 1966

LaCrosby Style House

No Appointment Necessary-No Waiting- Call 822-5700 For Information

Hot Work . . $4.50 up Wet Set . . $3.50 up Hair Cut . . . $2.00

LaCrosby Style House No. 2
WIGS A GO-GO
SALES . . . . . SERVICE
HAIR COLORING-COLD WAVING-CUTTING & STYLING
SPECIALISTS
EVENINGS BY APPOINTMENT
1722 DIVISADERO SAN FRANCISCO
346-0060

WIGS
$29.50 UP



Mr. Jose
The Master Stylist & Master Weaver
OWNER



Winner of Over 50 Awards

LaCrosby Style House
SPECIALISTS IN RELAXING PERMANENTS
No More Rain, Fog or Swimming Problems
HAIR COLORING - COLD WAVING
CUTTING & STYLING SPECIALISTS
EVENINGS BY APPOINTMENT
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 9 A.M. TO MIDNIGHT
3240 SACRAMENTO - SAN FRANCISCO
JO 7-5100